

A

PATENT

Docket No. 1948-4628

Express Mail Label No. EJ606947023US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UTILITY APPLICATION AND APPLICATION FEE TRANSMITTAL (1.53(b))

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Box Patent Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of

Named Inventor(s) and Address(es): Paul ARMIROLI, 26, rue des Jacheres, 94400 Marolles En Brie, France
Jean Philippe BADLEY, 1, rue Gabrielle, 62630 Etaples, France
Denis GRAVAT, 16, rue Pierre Joseph Bach, 77320 La Ferete-Gaucher, France

For: ALTERNATOR FOR A VEHICLE WITH TAKE-UP OF PLAY ON THE INTER-POLE MAGNETS

Enclosed are:

[X] 8 page(s) of specification, 1 page(s) of Abstract, 2 page(s) of claims

[x] 1 sheets of drawing [x] formal [] informal

[x] 1 page(s) of Declaration and Power of Attorney

[] Unsigned
[x] Newly Executed
[] Copy from prior application

[] Deletion of inventors including Signed Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d)(2)

[] Incorporation by Reference: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the combined declaration and power of attorney is supplied herein, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is incorporated herein by reference.

[] Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)

[] page(s) of Sequence Listing

[] computer readable disk containing Sequence Listing
[] Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.821(f) that computer and paper copies of the Sequence Listing are the same

- ☒ Claim for Priority
- ☒ Certified copy of Priority Document(s)
 - ☐ English translation documents
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement
 - ☒ Copy of 10 cited references
 - ☐ Copy of PTO-1449 filed in parent application serial No. _____
- ☐ Preliminary Amendment
- ☒ Return receipt postcard (MPEP 503)
- ☒ Assignment Papers (assignment cover sheet and assignment documents)
 - ☒ A check in the amount of \$40.00 for recording the Assignment.
 - ☐ Assignment papers filed in parent application Serial No. _____
 - ☐ Certification of chain of title pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b).
- ☐ This is a ☐ continuation ☐ divisional ☐ continuation-in-part (C-I-P) of prior application serial no. _____
 - ☐ Cancel in this application original claims _____ of the parent application before calculating the filing fee. (At least one original independent claim must be retained for filing purposes.)
 - ☐ A preliminary Amendment is enclosed. (Claims added by this Amendment have been properly numbered consecutively beginning with the number following the highest numbered original claim in the prior application.
- ☐ The status of the parent application is as follows:
 - ☐ A Petition For Extension of Time and a Fee therefor has been or is being filed in the parent application to extend the term for action in the parent application until _____
 - ☐ A copy of the Petition for Extension of Time in the co-pending parent application is attached.
 - ☐ No Petition For Extension of Time and Fee therefor are necessary in the co-pending parent application.
- ☐ Please abandon the parent application at a time while the parent application is pending or at a time when the petition for extension of time in that application is granted and while this application is pending has been granted a filing date, so as to make this application co-pending.
 - ☐ Transfer the drawing(s) from the patent application to this application.
- ☐ Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:
This is a ☐ continuation ☐ divisional ☐ continuation-in-part of co-pending application Serial No. _____
_____ filed _____

I. CALCULATION OF APPLICATION FEE (For Other Than A Small Entity)

	Number Filed		Number Extra	Rate	Basic Fee
Total Claims	14	-20=	0	x\$18.00	\$ 0
Independent Claims	1	- 3=	0	x\$78.00	\$ 0
Multiple Dependent Claims	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no				Additional Fee = \$260.00 Add'l Fee = NONE

Total: \$ 760.00

- ☐ A statement claiming small entity status is attached or has been filed in the above-identified parent application and its benefit under 37 C.F.R. § 1.28(a) is hereby claimed. Reduced fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.9(F) (50% of total) paid herewith \$ _____.
- ☒ A check in the amount of \$ 40.00 in payment of the application filing fees is attached.
- ☐ Charge Fee(s) to Deposit Account No. 13-4500. Order No. _____. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ATTACHED.
- ☒ The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for filing this application, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1948-4628. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

By: Joseph A. Calvaruso

Registration No. 28,287

Dated: October 1, 1999

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
 345 Park Avenue
 New York, New York 10154
 (212) 758-4800
 (212) 751-6849 Facsimile

FORM: UTL-TRAN.NY
 Rev. 11/13/98

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : ARMIROLI et al Group Art Unit:
Serial No. : Examiner:
Filed :
For : ALTERNATOR FOR A VEHICLE WITH TAKE-UP OF PLAY ON THE
INTERPOLE MAGNETS

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

Express Mail Label No. EJ606947023US

Date of Deposit October 1, 1999

I hereby certify that the following attached paper(s) and/or fee

1. application transmittal and fee
2. recordation of assignment w/original assignment and fee
3. information disclosure statement w/references
4. claim to convention priority w/document
- 5 data entry sheet
- 6 return postcard

is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under
37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box
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(Signature of person mailing
paper(s) and/or fee)

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
345 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10154
(212) 758-4800
(212) 751-6849 Facsimile

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Inventor Information

Inventor One Given Name :: Paul
Family Name :: ARMIROLI
Postal Address Line One :: 26 rue des Jacheres
City :: Marolles En Brie
State/Country :: France
Postal or Zip Code :: 94400
City of Residence :: Marolles En Brie
Country of Residence :: France
Citizenship :: French

Inventor Two Given Name :: Jean Philippe
Family Name :: BADEY
Postal Address Line One :: 1, rue Gabrielle
City :: Etaples
State/Country :: France
Postal or Zip Code :: 62630
City of Residence :: Etaples
Country of Residence :: France
Citizenship :: French

Inventor Three Given Name :: Denis
Family Name :: GRAVAT
Postal Address Line One :: 16, RUE Pierre Joseph Bach
City :: La Ferte Gaucher
State/Country :: France
Postal or Zip Code :: 77320
City of Residence :: La Ferte Gaucher
Country of Residence :: France
Citizenship :: French

Correspondence Information

Name Line One :: Joseph A. Calvaruso, Esq.
Name Line Two :: Morgan & Finnegan, L.L.P.
Address Line One :: 345 Park Avenue
City :: New York
State/Province :: New York
Postal or Zip Code :: 10154-0053
Telephone :: 212-758-4800
Fax :: 212-751-6849

Application Information

Title Line One :: ALTERNATOR FOR A VEHICLE WITH TAKE-UP
Title Line Two :: OF PLAY ON THE INTER-POLE MAGNETS
Total Drawing Sheets :: 1
Formal Drawings :: Y
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Representative Information

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Country :: France
Priority Claimed :: Y

PATENT

Docket No. 1948-4628

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION

For: ALTERNATOR FOR A VEHICLE WITH TAKE-UP OF PLAY
ON THE INTER-POLE MAGNETS

Inventors: Paul ARMIROLI
French
26, rue des Jacheres
94400 Marolles En Brie, France

Jean Philippe BADEY
French
1, rue Gabrielle
62630 Etaples, France

Denis GRAVAT
French
16, rue Pierre Joseph Bach
77320 La Ferte Gaucher, France

ALTERNATOR FOR A VEHICLE WITH TAKE-UP OF PLAY ON THE INTER-POLE MAGNETS

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

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The invention relates to the alternators of motor vehicles.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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An alternator for a vehicle is known from the document EP-0 762 617 A1, comprising pole pieces having poles in the form of interlaced claws, and inter-pole permanent magnets interposed between the adjacent claws. The magnets reduce the leakages of magnetic flux and contribute to reinforcing the magnetic flux. When the manufacturing tolerances of the pieces are relatively wide in order to reduce costs, it may happen that an inter-pole magnet breaks under the effect of the centrifugal forces and of the considerable heating engendered by the rotation of the rotor at high speed (opening of the pole horns).

One object of the invention is to supply an alternator allowing the magnets to be fixed while reducing the risk of breaking the magnet, without requiring very fine manufacturing tolerances.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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With a view to achieving this objective, an alternator for a vehicle is provided according to the invention, comprising two pole pieces having interlaced poles and a magnet, the poles exhibiting grooves profiled along an axis and accommodating the magnet, the profile completely preventing the magnet escaping from the grooves in a plane perpendicular to the axis,

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which is distinguished in that it comprises a strip interposed between one face of the magnet and at least one of the grooves, the strip being produced from a material which is less hard than the magnet.

5 Hence, because of its flexibility, the strip takes up the play due to the manufacturing tolerances and absorbs the deformations of the pieces which are due to the heating and to the forces which are generated by the high rotational speeds. This reduces
10 the risk of breaking the magnet.

Advantageously, the strip is interposed between the magnet and each of the grooves.

Hence the strip takes up the play in each groove along an axis radial to the shaft of the rotor.

15 Advantageously, the strip covers over one circumferential face of the magnet.

Hence, the arrangement of the magnet in the grooves remains symmetric with respect to a median longitudinal plane of the inter-pole space situated at
20 mid-distance of the poles. Thus the symmetry of the magnetic field is preserved.

Advantageously, the circumferential face is oriented in a direction opposite to a shaft of the alternator.

25 Hence, the positioning of the magnet as close as possible to the gap is facilitated.

Advantageously, the alternator comprises a layer of adhesive which is more flexible than the magnet and is interposed between the strip and the magnet.

30 Hence, this layer of adhesive itself also contributes to damping the deformations and to taking up the play.

Advantageously, the alternator comprises two strips interposed between respective opposed faces of
35 the magnet and at least one of the grooves.

Advantageously, the magnet includes two separate parts bonded to one another by a layer of material which is more flexible than the magnet.

Hence, additional take-up of play and additional
5 damping of deformations are provided, in a direction which may be different from the direction of take-up of the play associated with the strip.

Advantageously, the material is identical to the adhesive bonding the strip to the magnet.

10 Advantageously, the profile of each groove is "U"-shaped.

Advantageously, the profile of each groove is "V"-shaped, the "V" profile having one branch locally parallel to a circumferential face of the poles.

15 Advantageously, the "V" exhibits two branches, the parallel branch being closer to a shaft of the alternator than the other branch.

Advantageously, the alternator comprises several magnets, at least two of the magnets, or even most of
20 them, preferably all of them, being associated with respective strips.

Advantageously, the strips of the respective magnets are independent of one another.

Hence, the strips can be fitted separately and
25 successively.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Other characteristics and advantages of the
30 invention will emerge further from the following description of several preferred embodiments given by way of non-limiting examples. In the attached drawings:

- Figure 1 is a partial view in elevation of a rotor of an alternator according to the invention;

35 - Figure 2 is a partial view in section along the line II-II of the rotor of Figure 1; and

- Figures 3, 4 and 5 are views similar to Figure 2 illustrating other embodiments.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

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In the present embodiment, the electrical alternator for a motor vehicle according to the invention is intended to be cooled by water by being incorporated into the loop of the cooling circuit of the vehicle in a way which is known in itself. The alternator can be integrated, for example, for this purpose in series or in parallel with the radiator for heating the passenger compartment. Alternatively, the alternator may be of the type with internal ventilation.

The alternator includes a stator and a rotor 2 equipped with a shaft with axis 4, which are of a conventional type known in itself, for example from the document EP-0 762 617, except as far as the poles and the inter-pole magnets are concerned. The rotor includes two pole pieces 6 each comprising a disc-shaped plate 8 mounted coaxially on the shaft. The two plates 8 extend in coincidence and parallel to one another.

Each pole piece 6 includes claw-shaped poles 10, which are generally flat and triangular, extending from the plate 8 towards the other plate. The poles of the pole pieces are mutually interlaced, so that the point of each pole 10 extends very close to the plate 8 of the other pole piece.

The two pole pieces 6 are associated with the respective North and South magnetic poles. Each pole 10 exhibits two respectively outer convex 12 and inner concave 14 circumferential faces, and two flat lateral faces 16 forming two of the sides of the triangle and contiguous with the circumferential faces. The lateral

faces 16 of the poles 10 extend facing each other at a distance. Such an arrangement is known in itself.

In the present embodiment, each lateral face 16 exhibits a groove 18 or slot with a "U" profile, the groove having an axis 21 extending along a longitudinal direction of the lateral face 16. The slot 18 exhibits a flat bottom and two sides perpendicular to it.

The rotor includes permanent magnets 20 here having a generally rectangular parallelepipedal shape and especially a profile which is rectangular perpendicularly to a longitudinal direction of the magnet. Each magnet 20 is accommodated between the lateral faces 16 of two respective poles 10 with its lateral faces 22 in the slots 18 possibly with a layer of adhesive interposed at the bottom of the grooves.

Each magnet 20 is polarized North-South along a direction extending from one of its lateral faces 22 to the other.

Each pair of grooves 18 facing one another define a magnet housing 20, the profile of the grooves preventing the magnet coming out of the housing in a plane perpendicular to an axis 21 of the grooves once the poles 10 are mutually interlaced. In order to insert a magnet into its housing or to extract it from it, it can, for example, be made to slide parallel to the axis 21 of the grooves as far as the axial extremity of the housing.

The rotor 2 comprises, for each magnet 20, a strip 24 or plate of a material which is less hard and more flexible than the material of the magnet. In this case, it is glass fiber embedded in a pre-impregnated plastic. The strip 24 is flat and rectangular and has the same dimensions and the same shape as the outer circumferential face 25 of the magnet 20 which it covers over, with its edges in coincidence. A layer 26 of adhesive which is more flexible than the magnet 20

is interposed between the magnet 20 and the strip 24. The strip 24 and the layer of adhesive 26 each extend in the two grooves 18, being interposed between the circumferential outer face 25 of the magnet and one of the sides of the groove 18. The circumferential outer face 25 of the magnet is oriented in a direction opposite to the shaft of the rotor, in contrast to the circumferential inner face 27 of the magnet which is oriented towards this shaft.

10 By virtue of the flexibility of the strip 24 and of the layer of adhesive 26, the play due to manufacturing tolerances is taken up in a direction radial to the axis 4 of the rotor. Moreover, when the rotor is turning at high speeds, the deformations of the pieces due to the forces and to the heating caused by the rotation of the rotor are damped.

For assembly, the strip 24 can be bonded to each magnet 20, then the unit thus constituted can be inserted into its housing.

20 Alternatively, each magnet 20 can be inserted into its housing, then the strip 24 can be inserted and bonded to the magnet at this stage.

In the embodiment of Figure 3, the rotor further comprises, for each magnet 20, a second strip 24 covering over the circumferential inner face 27 of the magnet 20 with a layer of adhesive 26 being interposed, strip and layer of adhesive being similar to those of Figure 2.

In the embodiment of Figure 4, the magnet comprises a single strip 24, as in Figure 2. The magnet 20 this time comprises two separate magnet parts 28 directly bonded to one another by a layer 30 of a material which is more flexible than the magnet. This may, for example, take the form of a silicone adhesive advantageously comprising iron in order to provide a better magnetic continuity through the layer of

adhesive 30. The two magnet parts 28 each have a rectangular parallelepipedal shape and are identical to each other in their shape and their dimensions. The layer 30 extends in a median longitudinal plane of the magnet, at mid-distance from each of the two poles 10, perpendicularly to the direction of polarization of the magnet and parallel to the axis 21 of the grooves.

This separation of the magnet into two parts 28 itself also provides take-up of the play and compensation for deformations, but in a direction which is not parallel, in this case perpendicular, to that associated with the strip 24.

In the embodiment of Figure 5, the magnet 20 is similar to that of Figure 2, but the strip 24 covers over its inner circumferential face 27 and not its outer circumferential face.

The grooves 18 this time have a "V" profile, with two branches 33 inclined with respect to one another. That one 33 of the two branches which is the closer to the axis 4 of the rotor is locally parallel to the circumferential faces 12, 14 of the poles. The strip 24 is interposed between the magnet 20 and the side of the groove defined by this branch 33 of the profile. The magnet 20 has a trapezoidal profile. The larger 27 of the two sides 25, 27 of the trapezium which are parallel to each other extends against the sides 33 of the grooves 18 which are closer to the shaft of the rotor. The other two sides 22 of the trapezium are in surface contact with the other sides of the grooves 18.

Although it is less advantageous, the strip 24 may extend between a lateral face 22 of the magnet 20, and one of the poles 10, in any one of these embodiments.

The strip 24 may consist of two parts separated along a median line, distant from one another and each housed in one of the grooves 18.

Advantageously, the layer of adhesive 26, 30
5 will be the same as that interposed between the grooves 18 and the lateral faces 22 of the magnets.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:

1. An alternator for a vehicle, comprising two pole pieces having interlaced poles and at least one magnet,
5 the poles exhibiting grooves profiled along an axis and accommodating the magnet, the profile completely preventing the magnet escaping from the grooves in a plane perpendicular to the axis, which comprises a strip interposed between one face of the magnet and at
10 least one of the grooves, the strip being produced from a material which is less hard than the magnet.
2. The alternator as claimed in claim 1, wherein the strip is interposed between the magnet and each of
15 the grooves.
3. The alternator as claimed in claim 1 wherein the strip covers over one circumferential face of the magnet.
20
4. The alternator as claimed in claim 3, wherein the circumferential face is oriented in a direction opposite to a shaft of the alternator.
- 25 5. The alternator as claimed in claim 1, which comprises two strips interposed between respective opposed faces of the magnet and at least one of the grooves.
- 30 6. The alternator as claimed in claim 1, wherein the profile of each groove is "U"-shaped.
7. The alternator as claimed in claim 1, wherein the profile of each groove is "V"-shaped, the "V"
35 profile having one branch which is locally parallel to a circumferential face of the poles.

8. The alternator as claimed in claim 7, wherein the "V" profile exhibits two branches, the said parallel branch being closer to a shaft of the alternator than the other branch.

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9. The alternator as claimed in claim 1, which comprises a layer of adhesive which is more flexible than the magnet and is interposed between the strip and the magnet.

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10. The alternator as claimed in claim 9, wherein the magnet includes two separate parts bonded to one another by a layer of material which is more flexible than the magnet.

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11. The alternator as claimed in claim 10, wherein the said material is identical to the said adhesive.

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12. The alternator as claimed in claim 1, which comprises several magnets, at least two of the magnets being associated with respective strips.

25

13. The alternator as claimed in claim 12, wherein a majority of the magnets, preferably all the magnets, are associated with respective strips.

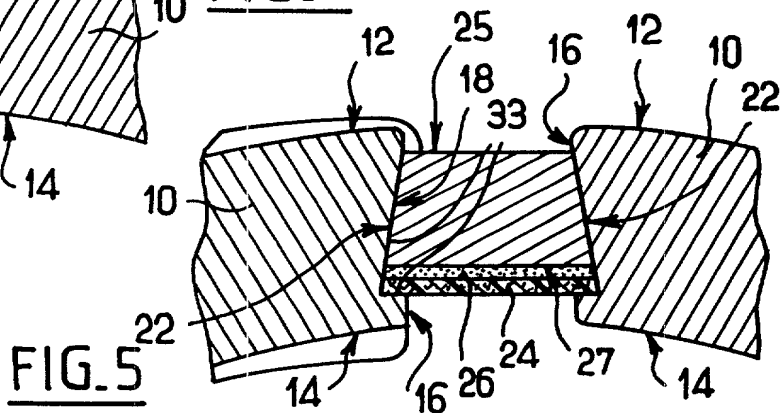
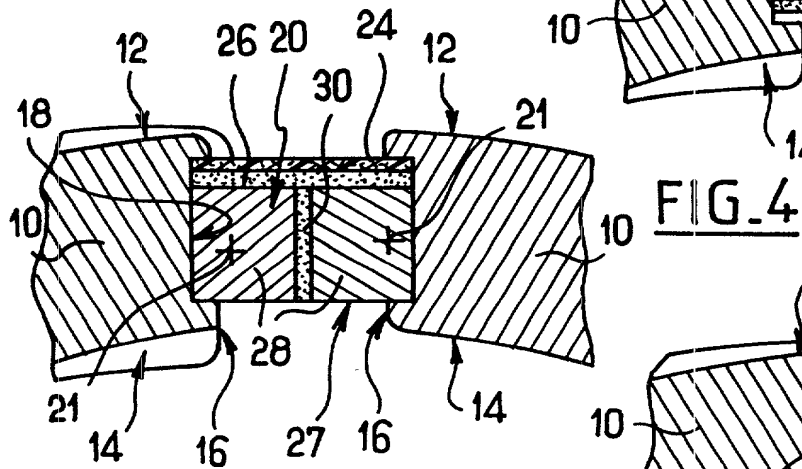
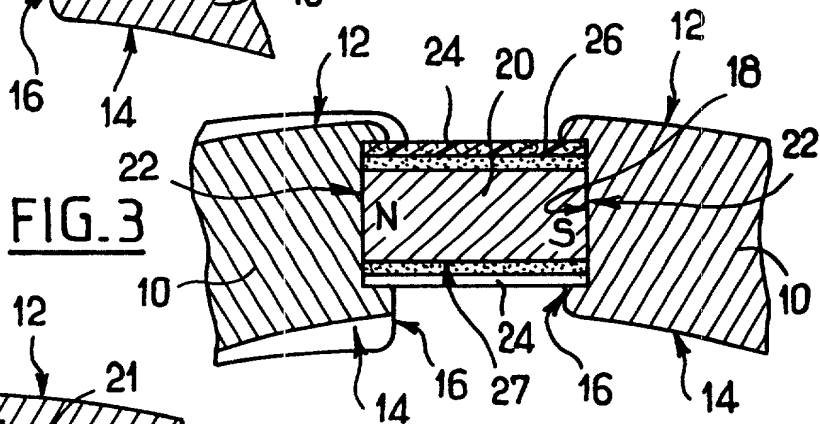
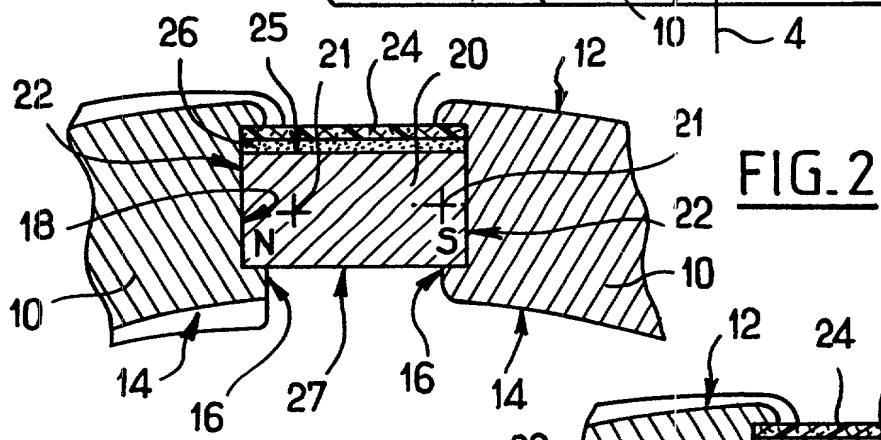
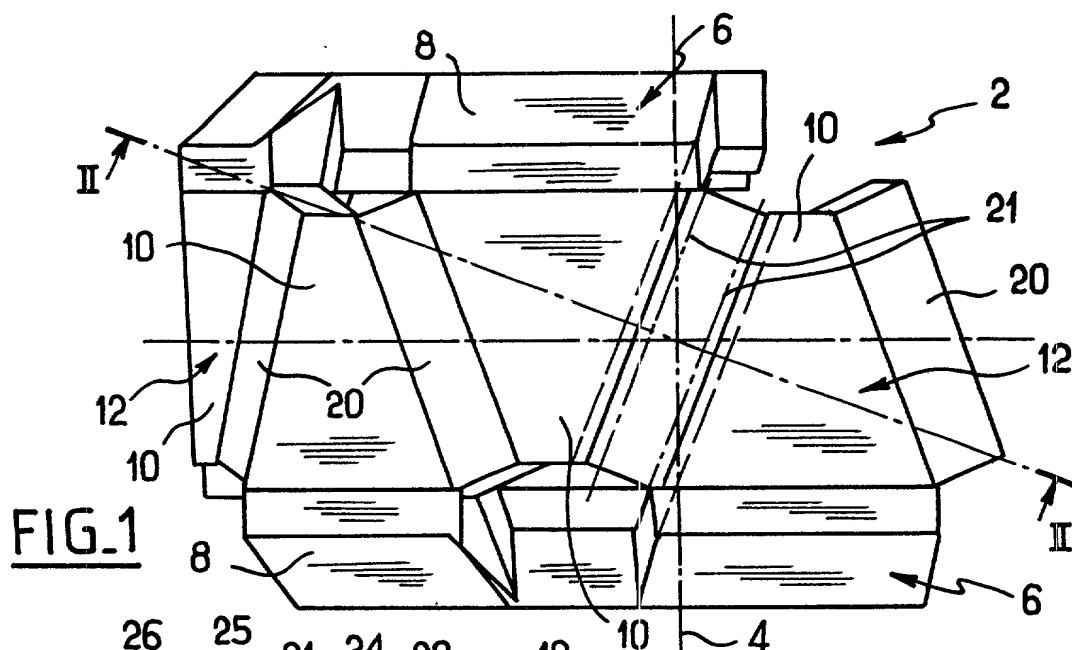
14. The alternator as claimed in claim 12, wherein the strips of the respective magnets are independent of one another.

ALTERNATOR FOR A VEHICLE WITH TAKE-UP OF PLAY ON THE INTER-POLE MAGNETS

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

An alternator for a vehicle comprises two pole pieces having interlaced poles (10) and magnets, the poles exhibiting grooves profiled along an axis (21) and accommodating the magnets, the profile completely preventing the magnets escaping from the grooves in a plane perpendicular to the axis (21).

It has, for each magnet (20), a strip (24) interposed between one face (25, 27) of the magnet and at least one of the grooves (18), the strip (24) being produced from a material which is less hard than the magnet.



1948-4628

RULE 63 (37 C.F.R. 1.63)
DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
FOR PATENT APPLICATION
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name, and I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **Alternator for a vehicle with take-up of play on the inter-pole magnets.**
the specification of which (CHECK applicable BOX(ES)).

☒ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed on _____ as U.S. Application Serial Number _____
☐ was filed as PCT international Application Number PCT/ _____ / _____ on _____
and (if applicable to U.S. or PCT Application) was amended on _____

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above, to the best of my ability. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56 as set forth on the reverse side hereof. I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119/365 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date (1) before that of the application on which priority is claimed or (2) if no priority claimed, before the filing date of this application :

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)

Number	Country	Day/Month/Year Filed	Priority Claimed Yes - No
98 12359	FRANCE	2/OCTOBRE/1998	XX

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120/365 of all United States and PCT international applications listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in such prior applications in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior applications and the national or PCT international filing date of this application :

PRIOR U.S. OR PCT APPLICATION(S)

Application Serial No.	Day/Month/Year filed	Status : Patented, Pending, Abandoned
------------------------	----------------------	--

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true ; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

And I hereby appoint

Jerome G. Lee (Reg. N°16,967)
Joseph A. Calvaruso (Reg. N° 28,287)
Morgan & Finnegan
345 Park Avenue, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10154
(to whom all communications are to be directed)

to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith and with the resulting patent.

1) Inventor's Signature *Paul Armiroli* Date *09/16/1999*
Inventor's Name (typed) **Paul ARMIROLI** Citizenship **French**
First Middle Initial Family Name
Residence (City) **MAROLLES EN BRIE** State/Foreign country
Post Office Address (Include zip code) **26, rue des Jachères 94400 MAROLLES EN BRIE - FRANCE**

2) Inventor's Signature *Jean-Philippe BADEY* Date *09/16/1999*
Inventor's Name (typed) **Jean-Philippe BADEY** Citizenship **French**
First Middle Initial Family Name
Residence (City) **ETAPLES** State/Foreign country
Post Office Address (Include zip code) **1, rue Gabrielle 62630 ETAPLES - FRANCE**

3) Inventor's Signature *Denis GRAVAT* Date *09/21/1999*
Inventor's Name (typed) **Denis GRAVAT** Citizenship **French**
First Middle Initial Family Name
Residence (City) **LA FERTÉ-GAUCHER** State/Foreign country
Post Office Address (Include zip code) **16, rue Pierre Joseph Bach 77320 LA FERTÉ-GAUCHER - FRANCE**

4) Inventor's Signature _____ Date _____
Inventor's Name (typed) _____ Citizenship _____
First Middle Initial Family Name
Residence (City) _____ State/Foreign country
Post Office Address (Include zip code) _____